

CHAPTER 3: VISION AND GOALS

The recommendations of this Plan are based on a long-term vision for greenways and bikeways throughout the County. The vision statement is intended to guide the overall direction of future recreation and transportation efforts in the region, and the implementation of this plan.

Fauquier County will become a place:

- ◇ *where multi-use trails, greenways and blueways serve a dual purpose as recreation and transportation corridors and serve to preserve open space, and;*
- ◇ *where people have the convenient and safe option of traveling on foot and by bicycle throughout the County for recreation and transportation.*

The following goals build on the strengths of Fauquier County, and are designed to help achieve the vision for improving pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian and blueway accommodations in the region.

GOAL 1: CONNECTIVITY

GOAL: Develop a county-wide walkway, bikeway and greenway network among residential neighborhoods, Towns, workplaces, shopping centers, historic districts, schools, libraries, recreation centers, parks, and other destinations, including linkages to neighboring jurisdictions.

While there are already some trails in the County, they serve a small portion of the population. This goal addresses the need for a seamless network of pedestrian and bicycle connections within and between the Service Districts.

- OBJECTIVE A: Expand the network of greenways, bikeways, blueways, horse trails and walkways throughout the county to connect developments, neighborhoods, towns, historic districts, schools, museums, public facilities and adjacent counties.
- OBJECTIVE B: Incorporate requirements for greenways, bikeways and walkways into all community design and modifications, and transportation activities.
- OBJECTIVE C: Accommodate the widest possible range of user abilities, including bicyclists, pedestrians (walkers, joggers, runners), in-line skaters, horseback riders, canoeists, disabled persons, children, and the elderly.



GOAL 2: ENVIRONMENTAL/QUALITY OF LIFE

GOAL: Preserve and protect the environmental quality of Fauquier County's rural, suburban and urban communities through the preservation of greenways and open space corridors.

This goal addresses the growing need to preserve and enhance Fauquier County's landscapes and to protect the quality of life for residents throughout the County.

- OBJECTIVE A: Provide greenway corridors which serve to filter run-off and provide migration routes for the County's wildlife.
- OBJECTIVE B: Provide incentives to landowners to preserve greenways and open space corridors.
- OBJECTIVE C: Provide blueways that enable county residents to access the Rappahannock for water-based recreation activities such as canoeing and kayaking.
- OBJECTIVE D: Reduce the environmental impact of motor vehicle emissions by providing alternative forms of transportation for short trips.



GOAL 3: RECREATION AND HEALTH

GOAL 3: Provide opportunities for a great many county residents who desire to walk, bicycle, ride horses and paddle boats for recreation and health.

This goal addresses the need to provide close-to-home opportunities for county residents to walk, bicycle, ride horses and paddle boats for health and recreation purposes.

- OBJECTIVE A: Provide greenway trails, bikeways, walkways and canoe trails within close proximity to places where people live and work, so that they have safe and convenient opportunities to engage in these activities.
- OBJECTIVE B: Provide access to the county's recreational facilities via greenways, bikeways and multi-use trails.
- OBJECTIVE C: Work with volunteer groups to encourage walking and bicycling through special events such as bike rides and walking tours.

GOAL 4: EDUCATION & PROMOTION

GOAL: Coordinate and promote the implementation of this Plan, and provide safety messages for people who use the system.

This goal addresses the need for community leaders and the general public to have a greater level of awareness of the benefits of walking and bicycling to health, the environment, and the quality of life of County residents.

- OBJECTIVE A: Establish a permanent advisory committee to coordinate the implementation of this Plan.
- OBJECTIVE B: Promote walkways, bikeways and shared-use paths and related facilities among county residents.
- OBJECTIVE C: Incorporate safety and security related design standards for roads, walkways, bikeways and shared-use paths.
- OBJECTIVE D: Educate the public about safe walking, bicycling, and driving rules and practices.
- OBJECTIVE E: Promote trail safety by establishing guidelines for trail etiquette, and by educating people about these guidelines.

GOAL 5: FUNDING

Goal: Provide adequate funding to develop and maintain a seamless network of facilities.

This goal addresses the need to provide funding for the construction and maintenance of the system.

- OBJECTIVE A: Aggressively pursue state and federal funding grants for the construction of new multi-use trails, bikeways and sidewalks throughout the County.
- OBJECTIVE B: Pursue grant sources that specifically target funding to eliminate gaps in the network.
- OBJECTIVE C: Establish sustaining local budget and finance programs for construction and maintenance of walkways, horse trails, blueway access, bikeways and related facilities.
- OBJECTIVE D: Encourage volunteer efforts and the involvement of community advocacy groups in the development of future multi-use trails.
- OBJECTIVE E: Design for low maintenance.

Conclusion

Fauquier County's vision for more greenways, bikeways and walkways provides the public, elected officials, county staff, and others a clear picture of the future network. The goals speak directly to the particular areas of emphasis that need action. Together they provide a framework for the recommendations in this Plan.